No. CCLXXVIII.

The SPECTATOR

Sermones ego mallem
Repentes per humum Hor.

Friday, January 18. 1712.

SPECTATOR,

YOUR having done considerable Services in this great City, by rectifying the Disorders of Families, and reconciling Wives having prefer'd your Advice and Directions to those of their Husbands, I presume to apply to you at this Time. I keep a Toy-shop, and tho' I am a young Man, I have Experience that nothing but the utmost Complaisance both of Husband and Wife (among People) can keep Affairs in any tolerable Order. My Wife at the beginning of our Establishment shewed her self very willing to mind Business as much as could lie in her Way, and I have Reason to believe, 'twas with her Inclination; but of late she has got acquainted with Mr. Coolman, who values himself for his great Knowledge in the Greek Tongue. He frequently in the Shop makes Discourses on the Beauties and Excellencies of that Language, and adds to his several Passages out of the Greek Poets, wherein he reads her three or four incomparable Lectures, and explains to her the Difficulties of other Authors, which are wholly unaccountable. He entertained her with his Learning so much, that instead of her former Diligence in the Shop, she neglects the Affairs of the House, and is wholly taken up with Greek Phrases, which she learns by Heart, and utters upon all Occasions. Last Night, when I came from the Coffee-house, she asked me, Whether I would have Tea or Coffee, in the Words of one of Homer's Heroines. In short, Sir, I am afraid she will be so much improved, that she will not understand my Orders in a Week's Time. I am sensible, that a Man of Learning would be more conformable to the Misery of his Profession; that our Friendship would make us assistant to each other in our Callings; that certain Faculties of Conversation would qualify us for mutual Pleasures; and that Discourses of Learning would be very entertaining to Persons of Education: But, Sir, I am in Trade, and my Wife's Conversation should be with Women of Quality, who will be apt to laugh at her Pronunciation, and her Ignorance upon the Receipt of a Letter. Dear Sir, I am very unhappy; your Remonstrances have no Power, but what are more than mine; I am afraid I shall be obliged to desire my self to procure her a Settlement at the Tuition of her Tutor, for she's already too much his Scholar.

Now, Sir, you see the Danger my Family is in, and the Unlikelihood of my ever seeing it out of trouble and confusion, unless by your reading her self, in your Paper, may make her reflect. She is so very learned that I cannot pretend by Word of Mouth to argue with her. She laughed out at your ending a Paper in Greek, and I was a Fool to answer it in Latin. Women of Literature, and very learned to translate it into Greek, and vote them in the wrong. You see how I am puzzled. Your Advice to a distressed Damsel, who intends to be determined by your Judgment in a Matter of great Importance to her. You must know then, There is an agreeable young Fellow, to whose Person, Wit, and Humour no body makes any Objection, that pretends to have been long in Love with me. To this I must add, (whether it proceeds from the Vanity of my Nature, or the strong Sincerity of my Lover, I will not pretend to say) that I verily believe he has a real Value for me; which, if true, should allow me fully to augment his Merit with his Mistress. Therefore, I am so sensible of his good Qualities, and what I owe to his Passion, that I think I could soon resolve to give up my Liberty to him than any body else, were there not an Objection to be made to his Fortunes, in regard they don't answer the utmost mine may expect, and are not sufficient to secure me from incurring the reproachful Phrase so commonly used, That she has play'd the Fool. Now, tho' I am one of those few who heartily despise Equipage, Diamonds, and a Coxcomb; yet since such opposite Notions from mine prevail in the World, even among the best and such as are esteem'd the most prudent People, I can't find in my Heart, to answer upon encountering the Objection, which I am confident, shall do, in what Circle and at what Time soever I discover a Thought beyond that of coveting it, not advancing my Fortunes. Shall this Difficulty I know I abhor, not hinder the best Man in the World and the fairest Fortune I meet with, or hearken to the Voice of my Lover, and the Motions I find in my Heart in favour of him. Sir, Your Opinion and Advice in this Affair, is the only thing I know can turn the Balance; and which I earnestly intreat I may receive soon, for, till I have your Thoughts upon it, I am engag'd not to give my Swain a final Discharge.

Your humble Servant.

SIR,

IF you have that Humanity and Compassion in your Nature that you take such Pains to make one think you have, you will not deny your Advice to a distressed Damsel, who intends to be determined by your Judgment in a Matter of great Importance to her. You must know then, There is an agreeable young Fellow, to whose Person, Wit, and Humour no body makes any Objection, that pretends to have been long in Love with me. To this I must add, (whether it proceeds from the Vanity of my Nature, or the strong Sincerity of my Lover, I will not pretend to say) that I verily believe he has a real Value for me; which, if true, should allow me fully to augment his Merit with his Mistress. Therefore, I am so sensible of his good Qualities, and what I owe to his Passion, that I think I could soon resolve to give up my Liberty to him than any body else, were there not an Objection to be made to his Fortunes, in regard they don't answer the utmost mine may expect, and are not sufficient to secure me from incurring the reproachful Phrase so commonly used, That she has play'd the Fool. Now, tho' I am one of those few who heartily despise Equipage, Diamonds, and a Coxcomb; yet since such opposite Notions from mine prevail in the World, even among the best and such as are esteem'd the most prudent People, I can't find in my Heart, to answer upon encountering the Objection, which I am confident, shall do, in what Circle and at what Time soever I discover a Thought beyond that of coveting it, not advancing my Fortunes. Shall this Difficulty I know I abhor, not hinder the best Man in the World and the fairest Fortune I meet with, or hearken to the Voice of my Lover, and the Motions I find in my Heart in favour of him. Sir, Your Opinion and Advice in this Affair, is the only thing I know can turn the Balance; and which I earnestly intreat I may receive soon, for, till I have your Thoughts upon it, I am engag'd not to give my Swain a final Discharge.

Besides

'Besides the particular Obligation you will lay 'on me, by giving this Subject Room in one of 'your Papers, 'tis possible it may be of use to 'some others of my Sex, who will be as grate-'ful for the Favour as

'I R,

Your Humble Servant,

Florinda.

PS. *To tell you the Truth I am Married to Him already, but pray say something to justify me.*

Mr. SPECTATOR,

'YOU will forgive Us Professors of Musick 'if We make a second Application to You, 'in Order to promote our Design of exhibiting 'Entertainments of Musick in *York-Buildings*. It 'is industriously insinuated, that Our Intention is 'to destroy Operas in General; but we beg of 'you to insert this plain Explanation of our selves 'in your Paper. Our Purpose is only to improve 'our Circumstances, by improving the Art which 'we profess. We see it utterly destroyed, at pre-'sent; and as we were the Persons who introdu-'ced Operas, we think it a groundless Imputa-'tion that we should set up against the Opera in 'it self. What we pretend to assert is, That the 'Songs of different Authors injudiciously put to-'gether, and a Foreign Tone and Manner which 'are expected in every Thing now performed 'amongst us, has put Musick it self to a Stand; 'insomuch that the Ears of the People cannot now 'be entertained with any thing but what has an 'impertinent Gayety, without any just Spirit or a 'Languishment of Notes, without any Passion or 'common Sense. We hope those Persons of Sense 'and Quality who have done us the Honour to sub-'scribe, will not be ashamed of their Patronage 'towards us, and not receive Impressions that pa-'tronizing us is being for or against the Opera, but 'truly promoting their own Diversions in a more 'just and elegant Manner than has been hitherto performed.

We are, S I R,

Your most humble Servants,

Thomas Clayton.
Nicolino Haym.
Charles Dieupart.

There will be no Performances in York-Buildings, *till after that of the Subscription.*

At the Request of several Persons of Quality.

By Her Majesty's Company of Comedians.

AT the Theatre Royal in Drury-Lane, this present Friday, being the 18th Day of January, will be presented a Comedy call'd, The Modern Widow, or The Jealous Wife. The Part of the Widow Wife by Mrs. Oldfield; Beverly Mr. Dogget; Sir Peter Pride Mr. Johnson; Lovewise Mr. Wilks, Constantine Mr. Mills, Carlos Mr. Walker, Jerry Mr. Pack, Merry-man Mr. Penkethman, Lady Pride Mrs. Willis, the Widow Mrs. Bowtell, Philadelphia Mrs. Porter, Damaris Mrs. Bicknell, Prudence Mrs. Saunderson. With several additional Entertainments. By her Majesty's Command the Persons are to be admitted behind the Scenes.

This Day is Published,

A very neat Pocket Edition of the Spectator, in 8 Vol. 12°. Printed for S. Buckley, at the Dolphin in Little-Britain, and J. Tonson at Shakespear's Head over against Catharine-street in the Strand.

The Hudson's-Bay Company give Notice, that they are now dividing the Sum of 12301. 9s. 10d. among such who are Claimants at their 2d Dividend on Marriages, and their Undertaking for Benefit of such who are Sicklies, for Benefit of such who are designed for Clerks or Apprentices, and for Benefit of Poor Persons by enlarging Marriage Portions; and are given gratis at the Companies House in Fenchurch-street. Note, That all Re-entries for Lieu of such who received the Dividend of Apprentices which was paid at Michaelmas last, are compleat, and that any Clerk or Apprentice may be registred who have not less than 15 Months to serve: And such who shall be registred in the Marriage Society shall not be obliged to stay single longer than 6 Calendar Months from the Day they shall be entered.

A new Edition of HORACE, by the Reverend Dr. BENTLEY, in 2 Vol. Quarto, of the finest and largest Paper the whole Impression the same, will be published on Tuesday the 22d Instant, at Mr. Innys's in St. Paul's Church-yard, and Mr. Knapton's in Peter Nolter-Row. Price, as set by Mr. Vice-Chancellor at Cambridge, One Pound in Quires.

An Excellent Collection of the late Earl of Jersey's Pictures, by the best Italian and other Masters, will be sold by Auction to-Morrow the 19th Instant, at Mr. Syke's House, the two Golden Balls in Lincoln's-Inn-Fields, the Sale to begin at Eight a Clock. The Pictures may be View'd on Thursday and Friday before, and Catalogues had at the Place of Sale.

The late Sergeant Streeter's Collection of Prints and Drawings continue to be sold by Auction this Day the 17th of this Instant January, at the two blue Flower-Pots next to St. Martin's Church, Ludgate. The Sale will begin exactly at 4 in the Afternoon, and so continue every Evening (Sundays excepted) till all is sold, which will be in 12 Days, it being resolved to sell for Ready Money Nights. Note, This is a most extraordinary Collection, the Gleanings of Fifty Years Industry and Pains, having been upwards of 70 Years in the Hands of the Collector, the Amateur, would make this Collection 300 Guineas, as consisting of all the Painters and Engravers that have made any Figure in the World; the like not to be expected to Sell for many Years past, and is worth the Speculation of the Curious.

For SALE by the CANDLE.

This present Friday, the 18th Instant, at the Coffee-house in Lombard-street, at 6 a Clock Afternoon, (one Cask in a Lot) 23 Butts of new excellent Red Alicant Wine, bright, fresh, strong, and of the largest Body, neat, as imported of the very first Vintage, Imported by the Hope Galley, Gunter Master, directly from Alicant, and landed the 17th Instant at Bear-Key, now in a Vault in Dog-Tavern Yard, against the Dog Tavern in Billingsgate. Also 6 Pipes of extraordinary good White Wine, 2 Pipes of Red Lisbon Wine, neat and strong, in a Vault under the Peacock Alehouse in Bevis-lane in Tower-street (next to Seething-lane) in Thames-street. All the aforesaid Wines are to be Sold and tasted all Day to the Time of Sale. To be Sold by the said Broker, in Seething-lane in Towerstreet.

On Thursday the 24th Instant, at Garraway's Coffee-house in Exchange-Alley in Cornhill, at 5 a Clock, (one Cask in a Lot) 63 Hhds of excellent French Claret, viz. Lafite, Tour, Margaux, Obrion, and other of the best Growth of those Countries, bright, and of the true Flavour, as for present Drinking, being lately imported in Bottles, and remain neat as they were shipped, (no 2 Hhd. of Claret sold out of their Vaults) complaining of the High Customs, Borge Hanson Master, directly from Bourdeaux, pursuant to an Act made the last Session of Parliament. The Wines are now in Vaults at Tokens house yard, near the Royal Exchange, Lombard-street, Cornhill, or Garraway's Coffee-house, in Exchange-Alley. To be Viewed next Tuesday and Wednesday from 2 to 5, and Thursday till the Time of Sale. Catalogues to be delivered by The Tantum Tobler.

The Remainder of the Books removed from Ludgate-street, St. Paul's-Alley, Aldermanbury and Globe the Corner of Fleet-street, Alley over against the Royal Exchange in Cornhill, will be Sold by Auction, at their Warehouse in Bell-Yard, near Temple-Bar, on Monday the 21st Instant, and the following Days, at 9 in the Morning and 2 in the Afternoon, all Sorts of Divinity, Law, Physick, History, Voyages, Travels, Books of Pleasure, Poetry, Plays, Romances, Books of Husbandry, Gardening, Architecture, Fortification, Arithmetick, Geometry, Navigation, Astronomy, Geography, Maps, Globes, &c. Books in Folio, Quarto, Octavo, Twelves, and Aprons, Books in Sheets, Quires, and Bundles, Parcels of Paper, Sets of Types, Presses, Cases, Frames, Stands, Boards and Tables for Printing, Ink-Balls, Rules, Brass Letters, Cuts, Copper-Plates, &c. Books and Paper will be taken in Exchange for Books or Stationary Wares.

The Generous Rivals, or Love Triumphant, a Novel. Printed for John Nutt near Stationers-Hall, and sold by all the Booksellers of Cloysters at the West Door of St. Paul's Church-yard, Westminster-Hall, J. Hawkins at the Rack in Fleet-street, and Murphy at the Bar-Library in Westminster-Hall.

The last new Comedy, call'd, The Widow Lady, or, the Husband's Cure. By Mr. Charles Johnson. Printed for Jacob Tonson at Shakespear's Head over against Catharine-street in the Strand.

LONDON: Printed for Sam. Buckley, at the Dolphin in Little-Britain, and Sold by A. Baldwin in Warwick-Lane; where Advertisements are taken in; as also by Charles Lillie, Perfumer, at the Corner of Beauford-Buildings in the Strand.